

Havertown, PA – Showing his appreciation for public libraries' significant role in educating our youth as well as building and maintaining strong communities, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) addressed more than 50 library supporters at the Haverford Township Free Library Gala. Officials of the library, which has adopted the tagline, "enhance and enrich your life, absolutely," discussed the organization's goals to improve and update its services and infrastructure through initiatives such as its mission to become more eco-friendly. —

"I want to thank the people who operate and support this library for their commitment to this cherished community resource," said Congressman Sestak. "In particular, I am taken by the efforts of the library to engage our youth, such as through the Teen Underground. These types of groups provide a setting for children and teenagers to receive homework help, participate in enrichment activities, and enjoy time with friends in an educational environment. We also cannot understate the importance of many of the other services – including access to computers with internet connections – which public libraries provide in addition to their collections of books and reference materials."

In addition, the Congressman mentioned the need for government representatives and private groups to work together in support of public libraries. To help individuals dedicated to community organizations, such as those working for and with the Haverford Library, the Congressman hosted a series of seven forums on funding, including his recent seminar on private and foundational grants. The seminar attracted a wide range of citizens and groups in the Seventh District, including municipal leaders, civic organizations, and religious leaders. Discussion topics included ways to search for foundation grants and the application process itself. The Congressman published the first edition of his Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District Federal and State Grants & Resource Directory, a one-stop shop for learning about opportunities to secure project funding, available online at [www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml](http://www.sestak.house.gov/services2.shtml)

"As a federal representative, it is my responsibility to bring all of the resources and expert advice I can to the attention of my constituents," said Congressman Sestak. "As a specific example of the success possible when approaching the funding process effectively, my staff and I worked with the Upper Chichester Free Library to obtain a private grant to provide much-needed financial assistance. I look forward to continuing to offer any support I can to public libraries, whether through legislation that provides resources or by facilitating relationships within my District."

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.*

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